

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 2, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 23, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 20, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1901

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Carter, Furutani, and
Portantino)
(Coauthors: Senators Hancock, Negrete McLeod, and Padilla)

February 16, 2010

An act to amend Sections 66002 and 66003 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1901, as amended, Ruskin. Postsecondary education: Master Plan for Higher Education.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and their respective institutions of higher education, in the context of the goals of the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. Among other things, the act expresses legislative intent to outline in statute the broad policy and programmatic goals of the master plan and to expect the higher education segments to be accountable for attaining those goals. The act also expresses legislative intent that the governing boards be given

ample discretion in implementing policies and programs necessary to attain those goals.

This bill would reference the report of the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education in the Donahoe Higher Education Act. ~~The bill would add to the act a list of the Legislature's findings relating to the 21st century needs of the state's system of higher education.~~ The bill would also add to the act legislative intent that the master plan review committees be used to guide higher education policy. The bill would further add to the act legislative intent to outline in statute clear, concise statewide goals and outcomes for effective implementation of the master plan, attuned to the public interest of the people and state.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66002 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 66002. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
4 (a) The Master Plan for Higher Education in California,
5 1960–75, was originally prepared in 1959, and its recommendations
6 were approved in principle by the affected governing boards of
7 the higher education segments. Subsequently, legislation necessary
8 to implement certain of the master plan's provisions was enacted,
9 including this part. A need to differentiate the functions of the
10 segments of higher education and rapidly increasing enrollments
11 were primary factors that motivated the creation of the master plan.
12 (b) Pursuant to Resolution Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 1970,
13 and Resolution Chapter 232 of the Statutes of 1971, a joint
14 committee of the Legislature issued its report in 1973, entitled
15 “Report of the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher
16 Education,” which reaffirmed the principles of the original master
17 plan and emphasized a need for the segments of higher education
18 to improve access and educational equity, coordination and
19 planning, governance, and diversity within the entire system. As
20 in the 1960s, legislation necessary to implement certain of the joint
21 committee's recommendations was enacted, largely through
22 amendments to this part.
23 (c) (1) Pursuant to Chapter 1507 of the Statutes of 1984, the
24 Commission for the Review of the Master Plan for Higher

1 Education conducted public hearings and deliberations; in 1987,
2 it issued its report and recommendations, “The Master Plan
3 Renewed: Unity, Equity, Quality, and Efficiency in California
4 Postsecondary Education.”

5 (2) Building on this report and two more years of public dialogue
6 pursuant to Resolution Chapter 175 of the Statutes of 1984, the
7 Joint Committee for the Review of the Master Plan for Higher
8 Education adopted a comprehensive report in 1989, entitled
9 “California Faces. . . California’s Future: Education for Citizenship
10 in a Multicultural Democracy,” that affirms the achievements and
11 the basic structure of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education
12 and identifies new challenges for California’s institutions of higher
13 education.

14 (d) Pursuant to Resolution Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2009
15 (A.C.R. 65), the Committee for the Review of the Master Plan for
16 Higher Education conducted a needs-based assessment ~~comprised~~
17 ~~of comprising~~ public hearings and deliberations to understand the
18 needs of our state and our people and how our system of higher
19 education can best meet those needs and issued a report titled,
20 “Appreciating Our Past, Ensuring Our Future: A Public Agenda
21 for Public Higher Education in California,” viewing the master
22 plan as a living document, reaffirming the essential tenets of the
23 master plan of universal access, affordability and high quality, and
24 identifying the need for an overarching policy framework of
25 statewide public policy goals based upon the outcomes required,
26 increased accountability both fiscal and programmatic, and more
27 effective coordination and articulation.

28 (e) California in the 21st century continues experiencing a period
29 of unprecedented population growth and extraordinary social and
30 economic changes while the ability of our state’s public system
31 of higher education to carry out the master plan is at risk.

32 (f) In the spirit of the original master plan and the subsequent
33 reviews, the Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

34 (1) California has now passed the threshold of becoming a state
35 with a new multicultural majority as the ethnic composition of the
36 population is changing dramatically. Our state’s future economic,
37 social, and cultural development depends upon ensuring that all
38 its citizens have opportunities to develop themselves so that they
39 can contribute their best to society.

(2) Current estimates indicate that California will need to prepare more than one million additional graduates by the year 2025 in public higher education institutions to meet our workforce needs. California needs to prepare now for the projected enrollments in the 21st century. And, if the goals of the master plan and its subsequent updates are to be fully achieved, especially if groups that are historically and currently underrepresented increase their rates of participation in higher education, enrollments will most likely exceed even these projections.

(3) California must support an educational system that prepares all Californians for responsible citizenship and meaningful careers in a multicultural society; this requires a commitment from all to make high-quality education available and affordable for every Californian.

~~(4) To make these aspirations attainable, California requires a system of higher education that meets 21st century needs. These needs include all of the following:~~

~~(A) A system to provide statewide goals for California higher education attuned to the public interest of the people and State of California that will enable increased accountability across and within systems. This increased accountability, with increased efficiencies, must be both fiscal and programmatic.~~

~~(B) Affordability established within a clearly articulated and agreed-upon framework of shared cost, between the student who benefits directly from a high-quality education and the public, for whom the student's education is an investment for the public good.~~

~~(C) Clear metrics for measuring whether our affordability goals are achieved by our financial aid policies.~~

~~(D) A new focus on completion and results so that our systems lead our students toward readily completing their courses of study in a timely manner.~~

~~(E) Simultaneous commitment to high-quality higher education, to maintain California's distinction, and our capacity to keep California competitive in our now globalized economy; with the dimension of quality aligned for living and working constructively in the 21st century.~~

~~(F) Coordination and efficiency in our delivery of higher education, with sufficient authority placed in a coordinating body. We must create an agreed-upon system of simple, ready articulation~~

1 between our segments of higher education, grounded in a transfer
2 associate degree.

3 ~~(G) Closing the achievement gap between advantaged and~~
4 ~~disadvantaged students and communities without diminishing~~
5 ~~access.~~

6 ~~(H) Utilizing technology to meet our fiscal and programmatic~~
7 ~~challenges; as new technologies arise we must be flexible and open~~
8 ~~to new methods of higher education delivery and to the use of data~~
9 ~~systems that both provide information about outcomes and create~~
10 ~~efficiency in operations.~~

11 ~~(I) Increased transparency as part of an accountability system~~
12 ~~focused on meeting statewide goals and attaining the optimum~~
13 ~~balance between administrative and teaching costs.~~

14 ~~(J) Advancing career technical education, in both K-12 and~~
15 ~~higher education, and eliminating the stigma often attached to~~
16 ~~those not seeking a four-year degree or graduate study.~~

17 ~~(K) Establishing and articulating the nexus between public~~
18 ~~financing and the economic benefits to the state, so that both the~~
19 ~~level of public investment and the return on that investment are~~
20 ~~articulated and verifiable. The test of our goals, aspirations,~~
21 ~~commitment, and of our capacity to ensure the future well-being~~
22 ~~of the people and State of California is to be found in the arena of~~
23 ~~funding, and whether and how we in the California Legislature,~~
24 ~~together with the Governor and the people of California, prove~~
25 ~~willing and able to invest the funding essential to meet the needs~~
26 ~~of the California system of higher education.~~

27 ~~(L) The support of the people of California. It is essential that~~
28 ~~we recognize the importance of a comprehensive strategic action~~
29 ~~plan for enlisting the active and ardent commitment and support~~
30 ~~of the people of California.~~

31 ~~(5)~~

32 ~~(4) To accomplish these goals, California's system of higher~~
33 ~~education will need to expand.~~

34 ~~(6)~~

35 ~~(5) It is the intent of the Legislature that the work completed~~
36 ~~by the master plan review committees be used to guide higher~~
37 ~~education policy.~~

38 SEC. 2. Section 66003 of the Education Code is amended to
39 read:

1 66003. It is the intent of the Legislature to outline in statute
2 the broad policy and programmatic goals of the master plan and
3 clear, concise statewide goals and outcomes for effective
4 implementation of the master plan, attuned to the public interest
5 of the people and State of California, and to expect the system as
6 a whole and the higher education segments to be accountable for
7 attaining those goals. However, consistent with the spirit of the
8 original master plan and the subsequent updates, it is the intent of
9 the Legislature that the governing boards be given ample discretion
10 in implementing policies and programs necessary to attain those
11 goals.

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